

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants rewrite claims 3, 5-7, 15, and 16 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants cancel claims 1, 2, 4, 12-14, and 17-20 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 3, 5-10, 15, and 16 remain currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3, 5-10, 15, and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 12-14,¹ and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0140051 to Fujiwara et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication no. 2002/0138559 to Ulrich et al.²

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5-10, 15, and 16. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection under Section 103(a).

However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 5-7, 15, and 16 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 3, 5-7, 15, and 16 are therefore in condition for allowance. Because claims 8-10 depends from

¹ The Examiner seems to be relying on official notice as a basis for rejecting claim 13, stating "it is well known in the art that, in a distributed network system using a router, each entity in the system is assigned an IP address for the purpose of communicating with other entities." (Office Action at 9.)

² The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

rewritten claim 7, either directly or indirectly, claims 8-10 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claims 3, 5-10, 15, and 16, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

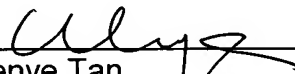
Further, because claims 1, 2, 4, 12-14, and 17-20 have been canceled, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 12-14, and 17-20 is moot.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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